

REMARKS

Applicants hereby thank the Examiner for issuing a Supplemental Office Action in response to their February 22, 2006 telephone interview.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for allowing claims 21-88 and 105-118. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging that there are allowable generic claims, and therefore species have been rejoined and claims 1-88 and claims 94-118 have been examined on the merits.

The informalities in the specification have been corrected. Particularly, the trademark Teflon™ is now capitalized and generic terminology for Teflon™ has been provided. Claims 89 - 93 and 119 - 120 have been cancelled, without prejudice, in response to a restriction requirement.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for being indefinite due to use of the trademark "Teflon™" in the claim. Claim 14 has been amended to include the generic terminology for Teflon™. Applicants submit that amended claim 14 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for being indefinite.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,271,639 issued to *Talalay et al.* (the '639 Patent). Applicants respectfully disagree.

To anticipate, the '639 Patent must teach or disclose all elements of claim 1. The '639 Patent does not teach or disclose all elements of claim 1. In particular, the '639 Patent fails to teach or disclose "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . " as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the '639 Patent does not anticipate

claim 1. The Examiner refers to Fig. 5 and its description as an especially relevant anticipating disclosure. The work rest (i.e., the platform) 43 shown in Figs. 4 and 5 of the '639 Patent does not show any "lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface" as recited in claim 1. A groove would have a wall on two sides. As is clear from Figs. 4 and 5, work rest 43 does not have a passage for the edges of grinding wheel 41 with a wall on both sides. From Figs. 4 and 5, it is not even conclusive that the work rest 43 has a shape other than a wedge. The ends of the work rest 43 are not visible in Fig. 5 because work rest 43 is located below the centerline of the grinding wheel 41 as seen in Fig. 4. If the work rest would have any kind of recess on either of its ends, it would be reflected in Figure 4; however, Fig. 4 does not show a recess. Even if, *arguendo*, one assumes that the ends of work rest 43 are somehow recessed, a recessed end is not a groove. The specification and claims of the '629 Patent are completely silent about a "groove" in the work rest 43. Therefore, the '639 Patent in general, and Figs. 4 and 5 and the associated disclosure in particular, do not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 94 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,479,773 to *Mills* (the '773 Patent). The Examiner refers to Figs. 3 and 5 and their description as the anticipating disclosure. To anticipate, the '773 Patent must teach or disclose all elements of claim 94. Claim 94, as amended, recites, in part, "a second spindle and collet . . . moving the workpiece one or both of forwardly and backwardly through the working area independently of the moving by the first spindle and collet." The '773 Patent fails to teach or disclose a spindle and collet for moving the workpiece one or both of forwardly and backwardly through the working area independently of the moving by the first spindle and collet. Instead, the workheads 26 of the '773 Patent are mounted on a

common reciprocating shaft 28, and therefore move in tandem. (U.S. Patent No. 3,479,773, col. 3, ll. 70-74). Therefore, amended claim 94 is not anticipated by the '773 Patent. Claim 102 depends from claim 94 and, therefore, is not anticipated by the '773 Patent for at least the same reasons as claim 94.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the '639 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,065,582 to *Joseph* (the '582 Patent). For a claim to be obvious over the prior art, the prior art must teach, disclose or suggest all elements of the claim. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, include all the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 recites, among other structures, "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '639 Patent, for the reasons discussed previously, fails to teach, disclose or suggest "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '582 Patent does not overcome the deficiency of the '639 Patent. Therefore, claims 12 and 13 are not obvious over the '639 Patent in view of the '582 Patent at least for the reasons discussed above.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the '639 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,086,065 to *Maxey* (the '065 Patent).

Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, includes all limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 recites, among other structures, "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '639 Patent, for the reasons discussed previously, fails to teach, disclose or suggest "a

platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '065 Patent does not overcome the deficiency of the '639 Patent. Therefore, claim 14 is not obvious over the '639 Patent in view of the '065 Patent at least for the reasons discussed above.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the '639 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,123,605 to Yauo (the '605 Patent).

Claim 15 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, includes all limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 recites, among other structures, "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '639 Patent, for the reasons discussed previously, fails to teach, disclose or suggest "a platform having . . . a front surface with a plurality of lateral grooves for receiving the raised areas on the working surface . . . ." The '605 Patent does not overcome the deficiency of the '639 Patent. Therefore, claim 15 is not obvious over the '639 Patent in view of the '605 Patent at least for the reasons discussed above.

#### ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-11, 16-20, 95-101, 103 and 104 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2-11 and 16-20 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claims 95-101 and 103 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 94. Since the base claims 1 and 94 are allowable for the reasons discussed above, claims 2-11, 16-20, 95-101 and 103 are also allowable in their present form.

Applicants note that claim 94 has been mistakenly listed as allowable despite having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Also, claim 104 has not been listed as allowable. However, claim 104 has not been rejected and Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to allow this claim as is evident from bullet item 7 in the Office Action Summary.

Therefore, all the claims pending in the present action, i.e., claims 1-88 and 94-118 are allowable for the reasons discussed above.

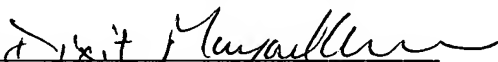
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that she may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: 6/30/06

Respectfully submitted,

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